MISSION STATEMENT

FOR THE

DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA

1988--1994

I. MISSION: A Witness to The Resurrection: Congregational Development

GOAL: The Diocese of Pennsylvania will seek to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through the vigorous and joyful affirmation that, in Christ, God overcomes death and makes all things new. We will express this through an invigorated and intentional program of congregational development that strengthens existing congregations and establishes new congregations.

STRATEGIES: The Diocese of Pennsylvania will:

A) Plan for Congregational Redevelopment

In 1988, begin to redevelop two to four congregations that are ready to move ahead and are in urban or suburban locations strategic for redevelopment. Provide an intentional and compassionate process for congregations where linkage, merger or closure are necessary.

RESULT: The office of the Archdeacon was created in 1989 to coordinate and oversee this ministry. Seven strategic urban congregations have been identified as diocesan missions. Three congregations have closed and three pairs of congregations have merged.

B) Plan for New Congregations

In 1988, begin to plan and by 1994 establish two new congregations in the Brandywine and/or Valley Forge Deaneries and one or two new congregations in the Bucks Deanery.

RESULT: After three years of planning and preparation, the Rev. Anne Ritchings was called as organizing Pastor of the Salford Area Mission on April 1, 1993. One hundred forty people attended the first public worship service on December 5, 1993.

C) Expand Hispanic Ministry

By 1990, expand ministry to Hispanics at St. Barnabas, Kensington, with new facilities and an additional priest. Expand the ministry at St. Gabriel's and in other areas with Hispanic population.

RESULT: An attempt to develop Hispanic ministry at St. Barnabas proved unsuccessful. St. Gabriel's Church is a diocesan mission with a multi-cultural focus. Christ Church and St. Ambrose, Kensington and Mision San Pablo in Chester have been identified as the primary diocesan missions for Hispanic ministry. Christ Church and St. Ambrose has developed into a national model for Hispanic congregational development.

D) Design an Urban Training Center

By 1989, develop a multi-ministries center in North Philadelphia to be a worship, urban training and service center.

RESULT: It was decided urban training could be done more effectively using the variety of congregations and cultures throughout the Diocese and this is being done.

E) Develop an Asian Ministry

By 1991, develop an Asian congregation, possibly at St. Martin's, Oak Lane.

RESULT: St. Martin's Korean Congregation began worshipping at 10th and Oak Lane in 1990.

F) Establish a Plan for Self-Evaluation by Congregations

In 1988, develop and establish an on-going process of self-evaluation for use by all congregations. Include a process for making congregations aware of available resources.

RESULT: The Mission Strategy Commission completed a self-evaluation instrument and process in 1990. This instrument, and consultants to guide its use, is available through the Committee on Renewal, Evangelization and Church Growth.

II. MISSION: A Channel of Compassion: Ministries of Peace, Justice, and Love

GOAL: The Diocese of Pennsylvania, mindful of its Lord who came to serve not to be served, will seek new ways to minister to and with all people, but especially the poor, the oppressed, the dying, and the bereaved. This will include both a ministry of advocacy--the prophetic word--and of direct service to those on the margins of society as well as those within the Church who suffer. Because of the suddenness with which issues often emerge, our Diocese must strengthen the many existing peace and justice groups so that they are prepared to respond swiftly. Episcopal Community Services will become a primary resource.

STRATEGIES: The Diocese of Pennsylvania, working in close collaboration with Episcopal Community Services, will:

A) Expand its AIDS ministry

Beginning in 1988, provide a greatly expanded ministry to patients, families, and friends of those affected by AIDS, and the wider community, through education, training of counselors, provision of facilities, and advocacy.

RESULT: A diocesan staff member, supported with funds from the Bishop's Mission Campaign, worked to develop AIDS ministry from 1990-1993. The diocesan AIDS committee continues this work today. Support has been given to a variety of community programs and congregational ministries.

B) Establish the Vocational Diaconate

In 1988, launch this program focusing upon a servant ministry to and with the poor and the suffering, with a full-time coordinator in charge of spiritual formation, training, and interpretation to the clergy.

RESULT: The School for the Diaconate began in 1989. Currently, twenty-seven deacons are serving in our Diocese.

C) Expand Diocesan Support of Local Ministries

By 1989, expand diocesan support to (1) inform and coordinate the work of Church organizations engaged in direct service and advocacy, and (2) work with the Rectors, Vicars, and Deacons to develop congregational networks for rapid response to crises, as needed.

RESULT: A newly appointed Commission on Advocacy, Service and Justice is expected to enhance local ministries of direct service and justice.

III. **MISSION: An Instrument of Unity: Expanded Facilities and Leadership**

GOAL: As its Lord became incarnate in this world, so our Diocese will provide, in more visible and substantial ways, the leadership and facilities to enable its members to carry out their mission more effectively. This means more accessible and appropriately symbolic facilities, and more episcopal support to congregations and clergy.

STRATEGIES: The Diocese of Pennsylvania will:

A) Obtain Permanent Location(s) for Church House and Diocesan Resources

By 1989, obtain facilities which provide for worship, Diocesan staff, the Christian Education Resource Center, the Audio-Visual Library, a Spiritual Growth Center, and the Archives, with parking available and access to public transportation.

RESULT: The Bishop's Mission Campaign, along with other diocesan resources, enabled the purchase and renovation of Church House at 240 South Fourth Street. The Church of the Saviour has been designated as our Diocesan Cathedral, and the Ministry of Education is now housed at Gateson House on the Cathedral property.

B) Elect and/or Appoint Two Additional Bishops

In 1988, elect a Suffragan Bishop and by 1990 name another, an Assistant or Suffragan Bishop. This will make it possible by 1990 to schedule confirmation annually in each congregation, with most visitations on Sunday mornings. Three bishops will also be able to provide additional pastoral support for the clergy and their families.

RESULT: The Rt. Rev. Franklin D. Turner was consecrated Bishop Suffragan in 1988. Although visiting bishops now do visitations on a short-term basis, the search continues for a third bishop to assist regularly in our Diocese.

C) Establish a Conference Center

As soon as feasible, perhaps by gift or bequest, establish a center for conferences, retreats, and possibly youth camps. An adequate supporting endowment would be essential.

RESULT: This continues to be a long term goal.

D) Improve Communications

By 1989, hire a full-time Communications Officer to manage and facilitate communications throughout our Diocese.

RESULT: A Communications Officer was added to the Bishop's Staff in 1989. This ministry continues as a full-time diocesan commitment with necessary support staff.

E) Develop a Planning and Evaluation Process

Establish an ongoing Mission Strategy Commission to assist in the implementation of this program and provide for evaluation and long-term planning. Develop an evaluation process for Diocesan Council, Staff, and other diocesan agencies.

RESULT: The Mission Strategy Commission continues to provide a ministry of planning and evaluation for the Diocese. In 1993, it began development of a long-range plan for the remaining years of the decade.

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